# Teacher Wellbeing and Resilience

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# TEACHER

T - Truthful

E - Enthusiastic

A - Able

C - Charming

H - Honest

E - Energetic

R - Respectful

R - Responsible

(ဖြောင့်မတ်တည်ကြည်)

(စိတ်အားထက်သန်)

(စွမ်းရည်)

(ဆွဲဆောင်နိုင်စွမ်း)

(ရိုးသား)

(ခွန်စိုက်အားစိုက်)

(ရှိသေခံထိုက်)

(တာဝန်ယူမှု)

## ITTECF Framework

- Teachers are key role models, who can influence the attitudes, values and behaviours of their pupils (1.2)
- Teachers have the ability to affect and improve the wellbeing, motivation and behaviour of their pupils (1.1)



## Good Childhood

https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/good-childhood

### **Headlines**

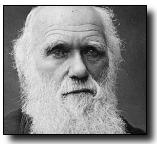
- The UK had lowest average overall life satisfaction among 15-year-olds across 27 European countries
- 25.2% of the UK's 15-yearolds reported low life satisfaction

### Resilience

#### **Bounce-back-ability**



 "The greatest glory of living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time you fall." (Nelson Mandela)



 "It's not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the most responsive to change." (Charles Darwin)



"It ain't how hard you hit; it's about how hard you can get hit, and keep moving forward." (Rocky Balboa) Challenges of definitions

Latin root: 'resilire' (to spring back)

Other languages:

Elastizität

résistance

resistencia

elasticità

Contrary to popular belief, resilience – our ability to bounce back from setbacks – is not something your either have or don't have; it is a quality which can be developed.

www.robertsoncooper.com

Research evidence can vary in its level of reliability, which is determined by how the research was conducted and other factors that might introduce bias, such as the level of independence. High quality research communicates methods and limitations transparently. (ITTECF, 8.9)

'an intriguing yet elusive concept' (Neenan, 2009: 3) 'an increasingly ubiquitous concept' (Chandler, 2014: 46)

Complex range of interacting factors shapes resilience in teachers (Bobek, 2002, LeCornu, 2009)

Resilience is a process of positive adaptation and it can be developed via specific competencies (Oswald, Johnson & Howard, 2003)

All humans have the capacity to become resilient (Grotberg, 1995)

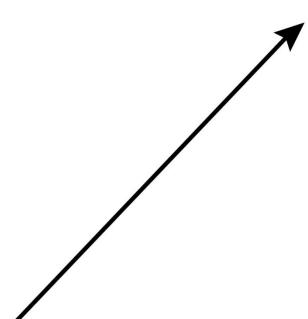
Resilience is 'the capacity to maintain equilibrium and a sense of commitment and agency in the everyday worlds' (Gu & Day, 2013:26)

The four key sources of personal resilience are: confidence, adaptability, purposefulness and the need for social support.

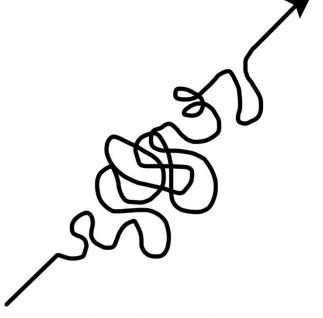
Cooper, C. (2012) accessed online

### **SUCCESS**

### **SUCCESS**



what people think it looks like



what it really looks like

# Why is resilience important?



## Why is resilience important?

Constant disruption requires better shock absorbers!

(Zolli and Healy, 2012: 6)

Briner, R.B. & Dewberry, C. (in partnership with WorklifeSupport) (2007) *Staff well-being is key to school success* www.worklifesupport.com

# What makes some people more resilient than others?

- Think of two people you know who are very resilient and one who is not
- What do the two have in common that makes them different from the third in this respect?
- How might these reflections inform your thinking about the characteristics of a resilient teacher?



### i-resilience: Four Key Components of personal resilience

#### Confidence

Having feelings of competence, effectiveness in coping with stressful situations and strong self esteem are inherent to feeling resilient.

The frequency with which individuals experience positive and negative emotions is also key.

#### **Purposefulness**

Having a clear sense of purpose, clear values, drive and direction help individuals to persist and achieve in the face of setbacks.

#### RESILIENCE

#### Social Support

Building good relationships with others and seeking support can help individuals overcome adverse situations, rather than trying to cope on their own.

#### Adaptability

Flexibility and adapting to changing situations which are beyond our control are essential to maintaining resilience. Resilient individuals are able to cope well with change and their recovery from its impact tends to be quicker.

# i-resilience test

https://www.robertsoncooper
.com/iresilience/





# Useful Reading

- Cowley, A. The Teacher Toolkit
- Holmes, E. A Practical Guide to Teacher Wellbeing
- Howard, K. Stop Talking about Wellbeing: A Pragmatic Approach to Teacher Workload Chapter: Sustainability and substance
- Gordon, A. (2021) Educate Mentor Nurture: Improving the Transition from Initial Teacher Education to Qualified Teacher Status and Beyond, Journal of Education for Teachers, Vol. 46(5)
- Gu, Q. and Day, C. (2013) Challenges to teacher resilience: conditions count, *British Educational Research Journal*, Vol.39(1)

Online, in Library, and on loan via annalise.gordon@stmarys.ac.uk

Skaalvik, E. M., & Skaalvik, S. (2017) **Still motivated to teach?** A study of school context variables, stress and job satisfaction among teachers in senior high school. *Social Psychology of Education*, 20(1), 15-37. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s11218-016-9363-9">https://doi.org/10.1007/s11218-016-9363-9</a>







Engaging in high-quality professional development can help teachers improve (8.7)



#EduTwitter e.g.



@TeachStMarys @CharteredColl @educationgovuk



Special interests e.g. @WomenEd @BAMEedNetwork @LGBTedUK



And professional subject associations e.g. @ALL4language @The\_GA @AfPE

### Lifestyle Management

### **Exercise and Fitness**



Healthy diet



Relaxation



Work life balance

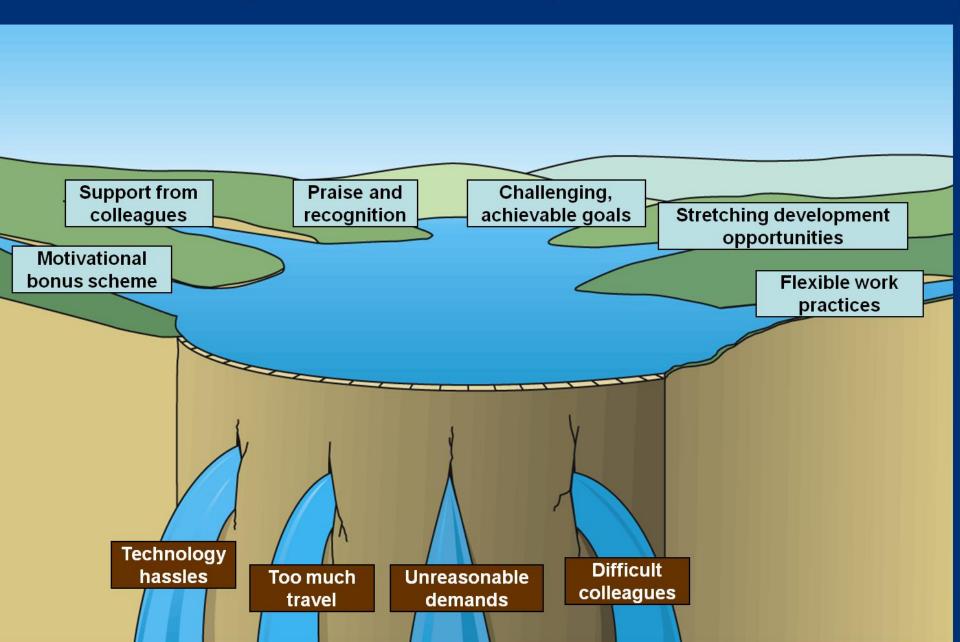


# **Urgent vs important**

	URGENT	Not urgent
IMPORTANT	Urgent and Important	Important but not urgent
Not important	Urgent but not important	Not urgent and not important

Do it now	Plan it
Delegate	Drop it

### The "Well-Being Reservoir": examples



"...it's the image of a rollercoaster ride at the fairground, with its peaks and troughs, and moments of sheer exhilaration, followed by others of fear and despondency"



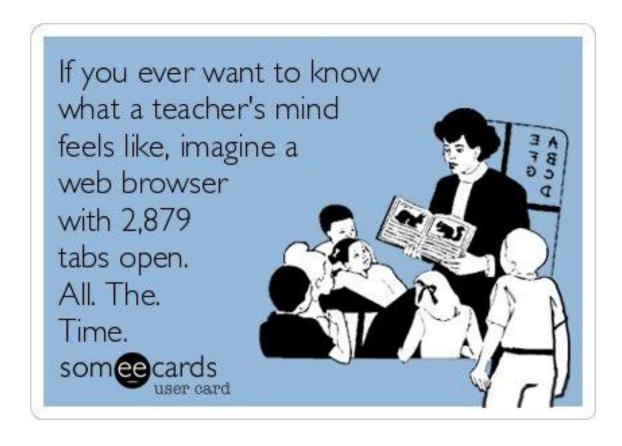
### Find Your Bench



### ITTECF

- Reflective practice, supported by feedback from and observation of experienced colleagues, professional debate, and learning from educational research, is also likely to support improvement (8.2)
- Teachers can make valuable contributions to the wider life of the school in a broad range of ways, including by supporting and developing effective personal relationships with colleagues (8.3)

# Sarah's story



'How in a world of disintegration and constant renewal – a continuum, a world of flow – one must find one's own rhythm exactly by recognising the incompleteness of the melody' (Foden, 2010: 315)

